

BELPER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



FOR THE

YEAR - 1944.

RICHARD CLAYTON ALLEN
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P., (Lond.)
D.P.H. (Birm.)

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Southern Area:

JAMES LAYCOCK.
Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat
and other Foods.

Northern Area:

W. G. COOPER.
Cert. R.S.I., Cert.
Insp. Meat and other Foods.



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GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population	26,580
Area of district in Acres...	48,118
Rateable Value.	£162,082
Product of Penny Rate	£664. 10. 2.
Total Debt for all purposes	£240,881. 10. 14.
Debt for Housing only	£139,219. 11. 0.
Number of houses on Rate Book	7,739
New houses erected during the year	Nil.
Number of Live Births registered: Boys 263; Girls 268	531
Number of illegitimate births: Boys 6; Girls 13	19
Still Births: Males 9; Females 4	13
Deaths of Infants under one year: Boys 4; Girls 10..	14
Total number of deaths: Males 158; Females 146	304
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	11.44
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births	26.37
(Infantile Mortality Rate for England & Wales)	46.00)

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Belper Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration my 13th Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the district. The Report is for the year ended 31st December 1944.

The report is compiled in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health and much detail in connection with water supplies is required.

During the year progress continued in the immunisation of children against diphtheria and up to date 55.5% of all children under 5 years had been treated, whilst 72% between 5 - 15 years had also been immunised. These figures may be considered fairly satisfactory considering the large area our district covers, but the aim is to obtain at least 75% in each age group. The only case of diphtheria in the whole of the year was a member of the A.T.S. stationed in the area. It is interesting to note that in the past 3 years we have only had 6 cases of this disease and no doubt the immunisation of children has played a big part in keeping the figures so low.

The number of cases of notifiable disease is considerably less than in the previous year, mainly due to having only 11 cases of measles as against 240 in 1943. The scarlet fever figure (122 cases), is the highest number for many years and the bulk of such cases were in the Kilburn Parish. In Kilburn there were 43 cases; Horsley Woodhouse 10; Denby 9; Duffield and Crich 8 each; Holbrook 7; South Wingfield 6; Smalley and Holloway 5 each; Alderwasley and Allestree 3 each; Coxbench, Mapperley, Shipley, Kedleston and Horsley 2 each; Quarndon, Flaxholme, Morley, Darley Abbey and Whatstandwell 1 each.

Figures for pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis are the lowest for a great many years. The Tuberculosis Dispensary at the County Offices, Derby is open on Friday of each week for the treatment of patients, who are also visited at their homes by the Tuberculosis Officer and the Health Visitor. Advice concerning the T.B. Allowances Scheme may also be obtained at the Dispensary.

There were 22 cases of dysentery in the following Parishes:-
Shipley 6 children; Smalley 8 children and 3 adults; Coxbench 1 child; Mackworth 1 adult; Kedleston 3 adults, all members of the A.T.S.

Further comparisons of the incidence of infectious diseases may be made on the following pages, which give the figures for the past 7 years.

Free private treatment can be obtained at the Derby Infirmary by persons suffering from Venereal Disease. Patients should, however, obtain a letter from their local Doctor before presenting themselves. All Doctors will give advice as to times and places of treatment.

I have visited many schools in the area and am pleased to report that on all occasions the schools appeared to be clean and the children tidy and healthy.

Together with your Sanitary Inspectors I have visited many farms, houses and food premises and numerous defects have been attended to. In other cases your Sanitary Inspectors have taken action to improve unsatisfactory premises.

Water Supplies.

Of the 28 Parishes comprising the Rural District, 12 are furnished with a piped supply of water by the Council. Four Parishes are within the statutory water area of Derby Corporation and the remaining 12 Parishes have no piped supply. Particulars of the Parishes are set out below:-

(a) Parishes in which a piped supply of water is afforded by the Council:-

Crich, Denby, Dethick, Lea & Holloway, Duffield, Holbrook, Horsley, Horsley Woodhouse, Kilburn, Mapperley, Pentrich, Smalley and South Wingfield.

(b) Parishes situated within the statutory water area of Derby Corporation:-
Allestree, Darley Abbey, Quarndon and Mackworth.

(c) Parishes in which there is no piped supply of water furnished by the Council.

Alderwasley, Ashleyhay, Hazelwood, Idridgehay, Kedleston, Kirk Langley, Ravensdale Park, Shipley, Shottle, Turnditch, Weston Underwood, Windley.

The water supplied by the Council to the 12 Parishes named above has been satisfactory in quality, with the exception of that from Carver Springs in the Parish of Dethick, Lea & Holloway which partly supplies the needs of Crich, Dethick, Lea & Holloway, Pentrich and South Wingfield. The Council received a report from the County Analyst that the raw water supply must be regarded as unsatisfactory for human consumption because of surface pollution. The matter was investigated at once by the Crich Joint Water Committee, who called in Mr. F.W. Hodson, Consulting Engineer, who reported to them that the pollution appeared to be of animal origin, and that as the whole of the supply was chlorinated before being pumped for use into the mains it was in all respects fit for human consumption. In times of shortage of supply from these springs, the demand is met under an Award by the Alfreton Urban District Council.

The quantity of water available in the Smalley Joint Area which comprises the Parishes of Denby, Horsley, Horsley Woodhouse, Kilburn and Smalley, is at times insufficient to meet normal requirements because of the increased consumption of water in that area, particularly since the War started. That part of the area which suffers the most acute shortage is in the Heanor Road, Smalley which is the furthest from the Council's Reservoir at Highwood in the Parish of Holbrook. The Council are, however, now erecting a water tower on land forming part of the gardens of two of their Council houses in Richardson Drive, which will be filled during the night and which will be sufficient to meet the normal requirements of the residents in that area.

The water supply in the Parish of Duffield is adequate to meet all normal requirements; but the Duffield Parochial Committee are considering the advisability of increasing the size of the reservoir at Hazelwood, anticipating an increased consumption of water when building operations in that Parish are resumed.

Bacteriological examinations are made of the water supplies to all the 12 Parishes in the Rural District for which the Council are the water undertakers, this is done every six months. Approximately 88% of dwelling houses and a similar percentage of the population of the whole Rural District are supplied with water from Public Water Mains, and so far as is known, no houses are supplied with water by means of stand pipes. No samples were taken for plumbo-solvency.

During the year a new 3 inch water main was laid from the boundary of Kilburn Parish into Holbrook, a distance of 550 yards. This main has improved the quantity of water supplied to Holbrook Parish. A new main 115 yards long and 3 inch diameter was laid at Fritchley to give an improved supply to several cottages, which previously had only a very poor supply.

There were no extensions or alterations during the year to the sewage works or sewers of the Council.

With the termination of the War in Europe, I look forward to the time when it will be possible to improve the sanitation of many of our Parishes. There is still a number in which there is no organised collection of refuse and in which the closet accommodation consists mainly of pails and privies. Eventually sewers will have to be extended to enable progress to be made in this direction.

Housing also will have to be in the forefront, and when the survey of all houses in the Rural District has been completed and all necessary action taken to bring all such premises up to a modern standard, I feel sure I shall be able to report a better and healthier district.

On the following pages you will find certain tables and comparisons, and I would thank the Members of the Council, the Clerk, (Mr. H.H. Creaser), the Sanitary Inspectors and other Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RICHARD C. ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	10	9	14	16	11	6
Non-pulmonary "	4	7	5	13	8	6	3
Scarlet Fever	55	53	31	65	38	52	122
Diphtheria	36	29	14	13	3	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	1	1	2	4	2
Enteric (Typhoid) Fever	-	1	1	3	1	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	4	5	-	-	-
Erysipelas	9	5	10	5	8	5	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	3	1	-	-	3	2
Polio-myelitis	2	1	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	24	17	28	28	20	21	20
Measles	-	-	380	256	159	240	11
Whooping Cough	-	9	37	59	15	55	60
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	27	-	22
Totals	148	136	521	462	298	399	251

The above table shows the rise and fall of the various diseases during the past 7 years.

During the year 304 persons died - 158 males and 146 females - a decrease of 1 on the previous year. The Death Rate was 11.44 compared with 11.74 last year and 11.08 in 1942. (Death Rate for England & Wales was 11.6.).

Births registered during the year totalled 531: - 263 males and 268 females. The total represents an increase of 107 over 1943 and 114 over 1942. The Birth Rate was 19.98 as against 16.31 in 1943 and 15.77 in 1942. (Birth Rate for England and Wales was 17.6.).

The following table gives the causes of deaths registered during 1944.

	Male.	Female.
Scarlet fever	-	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	2
Other Tuberculosis	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	2	-
Influenza	2	3
Cancer	24	18
Diabetes	1	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	15	11
Heart Disease	49	37
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	5
Bronchitis	9	6
Pneumonia	7	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	3
Ulcer of stomach of duodenum	1	-
Appendicitis	2	1
Other digestive diseases	1	6
Nephritis	5	7
Puerperal and Post-abortion:Sepsis	-	1
Premature Birth	1	3
Congenital Debility	3	4
Suicide	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents	2	3
Other violent causes	4	3
All other causes	19	22
Totals -	158	146

Cases of Notifiable Diseases at Varying Ages during 1944.

Disease..	Under 1 yr.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	45.	60.	Totals.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Scarlet Fever	-	-	7	11	7	34	39	13	5	5	1	-	122
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	2	-	11	2	-	4	1	2	-	22
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	2	3	4	2	4	20
Measles	2	1	-	1	-	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	11
Whooping Cough	7	2	4	3	5	32	5	-	-	1	-	1	60
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Pulmonary T.B.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	-	6
Non-pulmonary T.B.	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Totals -	11	4	11	17	13	81	53	17	17	14	8	5	251

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER 1944.

Gentlemen,

Again it is our duty to present a brief report on the functioning of the Public Health Services during another year of war. Looking back on the year, we are somewhat surprised to note how little real deterioration has taken place in the services given by this Authority, during the fifth year of the war. The ratepayers have most philosophically accepted such curtailment as was obligatory, as being inevitable and comparatively few complaints have been made. Not many changes have taken place in your employees and it has not been deemed advisable to resort to regular overtime.

The personnel of the administrative side remains as in previous years. Dr. R.C. Allen, Medical Officer of Health, Mr. J. Laycock, Sanitary Inspector for the Southern Area and Mr. Cooper for the Northern area.

Towards the end of the year your Inspectors submitted individual reports on administration for your consideration. Under your Clerk, new sub-committees have been set up to consider post-war problems relating to Housing, Water Supplies and Sewage Disposal, whilst the Rural Housing Report also has been under consideration.

HOUSING.

This has largely been a year of marking time and more preparation awaiting the cessation of hostilities. Inspection and recording of houses of the working classes awaits more settled times when labour in the building trades will be available for under present conditions it is too obvious that during the time which must elapse between inspection and replacement, circumstances may entirely have changed. Therefore bare maintenance had to be accepted.

RURAL HOUSING. This required the inspection and classification of all working class houses in every rural area. There are five categories, the last three principally to be dealt with under the first survey.

The preliminary survey is to "ascertain the general position" of rural housing, and the scheme is under the consideration of the County Committee. The Council's attention is drawn to the Ministry's suggestion that the Rural Councils should make use of any temporary labour available - skilled or unskilled, in making the preliminary survey.

Applications have been received from persons inadequately housed for almost anything which can be made weatherproof. Some dilapidated properties have been so repaired even up to the cost of approximately £100 per house. Even so the needs have not been met.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Much time has been taken up with the work of following up samples of milk which have been proved to be of poor keeping quality. Naturally this was during the summer months and rarely was the fault found to be the result of bad or careless methods of handling the milk on the farms. The chief cause was attributable to either the insufficiency or the high temperature of the water supply, with a poor service of churns taking a high secondary place. On some of the farms an improvement of the water-supply has been effected under the scheme whereby the County Agricultural Committee bear one half the cost, but the

temperature of the public supplies is not ideal. War conditions seem to have made it impossible for the collecting firms to provide sufficient churns or of suitable size, resulting in the producer being compelled to mix night's and morning's milk.

A third contributory reason was found in the length of time the milk was waiting on the roadside, deposited there for reasons of transport and the length of time the milk was in transit.

But the water problem was undoubtedly the main cause, and resulted in many visits to certain badly supplied farm premises.

A high percentage of the milk producers have special licences:-

Tuberculin Tested	1
Accredited	138

WATER SUPPLIES.

As you are aware, the area has a fairly satisfactory piped water-supply. A very high percentage of the properties are provided with a supply on to the sink. Unfortunately even in the parishes with this supply, there still remains one or two black spots, where, largely because they are at a high elevation, and perhaps at the head of the main, there are a few houses where the supply is intermittent. This condition is experienced chiefly in the parishes of Holbrook and Smalley. Schemes to improve conditions are being promoted and should lead to a great measure of amelioration. The "Rural Water-Supplies" proposals have been before you during the year and certain recommendations of extension on the exploration of new sources of supply, have been adopted as post-war policy.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

As a corollary of making provision for a piped water supply to all sizeable groups of cottages as may be practicable, sewage disposal for small areas is a consequence necessarily following. This is a task which must require time for the selection of suitable sites to deal with as large an area as will be possible or compatible with the volume of the stream to which ultimately the effluent will discharge. One cannot look forward with any flippant irresponsibility to a dotting about the countryside of these possible noxious outfalls.

Little new work of interest has been carried out during the year. Maintenance has been the objective. Touching the country people most closely in this matter of "disposal" is the crude, or lack of, arrangement at most of the farms. Usually this resolves itself into the easiest and most wasteful way to get rid of one of the extremely valuable and cheap fertilizers available.

As the result of the Minister of Agriculture's policy for ploughing up grassland, it has been possible to dispose of a large accumulation of dried sludge from the "beds" on the Allestree Outfall Works. This sludge was ploughed in with most satisfactory results.

Possibly when the new plants are constructed, there may be a demand to turn all farm drainage to the sewers. This is a question, which at a later date will be brought for your very careful consideration.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Little progress has been made during the year with the substitution of W.C.'s for other types of closet. Conversions were limited to 11 privies and 3 pail closets to W.C.'s and 6 privies were replaced with 6 pail closets.

In the District, additional to the W.C.'s there are still some 1894 pail closets and 209 privy middens. There are always a cause of trouble wherever the Council have instituted a scavenging scheme. The workmen whether employed by the Council or contractors resent, more or less volubly, having to give attention to the collection and disposal of the contents of these receptacles. And every reasonable person must have a large amount of sympathy with the men. Our opinion definitely is that wherever it is possible to change over to the water carriage system it should be legally obligatory upon the owner of the property to effect this change over, and where such change is not practicable, such convenience should invariably be excluded from scavenging schemes. Difficulties also arise over the hours when this service should be given, and those of us who know the practical objections, especially during heavy frosts, find few arguments to combat the workmen's view point.

SCAVENGING.

The collection of house refuse has been extended to the parish of Holbrook by contract at the request of a Parish Meeting, a very risky experiment in wartime, when labour is so difficult. The direct labour schemes continue to operate, but with less efficiency. It would be fatuous to pretend that all is as well as one could wish; or to profess no disappointment that this work had not priority, but under the difficult times one must commend the restraint and toleration extended by the general public to unavoidable omissions of collections.

Generally over the area, the Council's schemes have maintained at least a fortnightly collection and your Inspectors' acknowledge the invariably loyal co-operation of the Council's employees.

BAKEHOUSES.

Although only 4 informal notices have been served requiring lime-washing etc of bakehouses in the District, this number is higher than the average of previous years and in this small way is indicative of the manner hostilities are effecting the labour question in all industries without priorities. These places were immediately put in order and it may be stated that conditions are satisfactory.

CAMPING SITES.

Following the vigorous action taken by the sub-committee appointed to deal with conditions at the three main camping sites at Whatstandwell, a considerable improvement has been effected during the year. Regular inspections show that the majority of the conditions laid down for camping sites have been observed, the owners making every effort to comply with the terms of their licenses.

We would thank all Members of the Council for their co-operation and interest in the duties of the Department during the year, and remain Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JAMES LAYCOCK,

W.G. COOPER.

Sanitary Inspectors.

The following shows in tabulated form the principal nuisances recorded during the year and the action taken.

	Number of Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors	Number of Notices Served		Number of Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
		Informal	Legal	
<u>CLOSETS AND ASHPITS -</u>				
Defective Privies, Pail Closets & Ashpits (Not for conversion)	288	196	4	198
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s	11	11	-	11
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s	35	3	-	8
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets	11	3	-	6
Defective Water Closets	133	82	2	85
Provision of Additional Water Closets	20	-	-	8
Provision of Portable Ashbins	182	161	-	159
Dirty Closets	20	17	-	17
<u>DRAINAGE -</u>				
No Disconnection of Waste Pipe	-	-	-	-
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets and Drains	49	34	-	34
Drains Obstructed	169	122	2	130
<u>OTHER DEFECTS -</u>				
Roofs, Eaves-Spouts and Down-Spouts Spouts	123	72	4	73
Sinks	52	21	-	22
Insufficient Ventilation	-	-	-	-
Windows	10	4	-	4
Dampness	20	10	-	10
Water in cellars	24	3	1	3
Water Supply	17	14	-	13
Overcrowding	2	2	-	2
Foul Condition of Houses	19	13	-	13
Offensive Accumulations	18	18	-	18
Animals improperly kept	43	43	-	9
Pigsties	21	13	-	19
Smoke Nuisances	12	4	-	4
Urinals	-	-	-	-
Nuisances not specified above	129	101	-	98
TOTALS	1407	947	13	944

TRADE INSPECTIONS

	Number on Register.	Inspections Made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	985	472	11	11
Bakehouses	5	33	4	4
Slaughterhouses				
Offensive Trades	1	10	-	-
Common Lodging-houses				
TOTALS	991	515	15	15